

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04169 131615Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
SSC-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-14 /065 W  
-----077522 131617Z /43

O R 131544Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4398  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
COMSIXTHFLT  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT  
NAF SIGONELLA IT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD  
EUCOM FOR POLAD

UNCLAS OSLO 4169

DEPT FOR EUR/NE DONCHI

COMSIXTHFLT, USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES, NAF SIGONELLA AND CTF  
SIXZERO: PLS PASS TO KENNETH KOLB WITH NORWEGIAN LAW STUDENT  
NATO GROUP

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, NO  
SUBJECT: FINAL BALLOT COUNT GIVES NON-SOCIALIST VICTORY

REF: OSLO 4158

1. THE COUNTING OF THE FINAL ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN MORE OG  
ROMSDAL DEPARTMENT IN WESTERN NORWAY RESULTED IN A SHIFT  
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OF ONE SEAT FROM THE LABOR COLUMN TO THAT OF THE CHRISTIAN  
PEOPLES PARTY. THAT SHIFT HAS PUSHED THE NON-SOCIALISTS  
OVER THE TOP 78-77.

2. THE LIBERALS, A NON-SOCIALIST SPLINTER PARTY, WHICH  
DID NOT COOPERATE WITH THE THREE MAJOR NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES  
DURING THE CAMPAIGN, HAVE STATED THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT

THOSE PARTIES IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT; THOUGH IT IS AS YET UNCLEAR WHETHER THE LIBERALS WOULD SEEK PARTICIPATION IN THE NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT THE LINE-UP IS, ACCORDINGLY: LABOR 76, LEFT SOCIALISTS 1 (TOTAL 77); CONSERVATIVES 42, CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY 22, CENTER PARTY 12 (TOTAL 76, WHICH WITH THE TWO LEGERAL VOTES PROVIDES 78 VOTES, THE BARE MINIMUM FOR A MAJORITY).

3. THE MID-AFTERNOON ANNOUNCEMENTS CAME AS A SHOCK TO LABOR PARTY SUPPORTERS WHO, WITH ALL BUT A FEW VOTES COUNTED IN THE POST-MIDNIGHT HOURS, HAD CELEBRATED THEIR PARTY'S VICTORY. THE NATIONAL TV NETWORK HAD, AT THAT TIME, SHOWN A LABOR VICTORY WITH MORE THAN 80 SEATS.

4. THE IMMEDIATE RESULT WILL BE THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE EARLY OCTOBER OPENING OF THE STORTING.

5. WHILE PRACTICE CALLS FOR THE P.M. S RESIGNATION IN THE EVENT HIS PARTY IS DEFEATED, NORDLI HAS NOT CONCEDED DEFEAT AND HAS INDICATED THAT HE MAY ATTEMPT TO REMAIN. THE P.M. WHO, LAST NIGHT, MADE A GRACIOUS VICTORY SPEECH, IS APPARENTLY TOYING WITH THE CONCEPT THAT THE OPPOSITION CONSISTED ONLY OF THE THREE MAJOR NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES THAT RAN IN COALITION AGAINST LABOR (76 SEATS) AND THAT

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THE LIBERAL PARTY'S TWO SEATS DO NOT, THEREFORE, TIP THE BALANCE.

6. THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE NOW COMES DOWN, ESSENTIALLY, TO A QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT NORDLI RESIGNS AND SERVES AS A CARETAKER OR WHETHER HE ATEMPTS TO CONTINUE IN POWER AND FORCES THE ISSUE TO A VOTE AT THE OPENING OF THE STORTING. IN EITHER EVENT A NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER NOW SEEMS ASSURED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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